(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Central Government as well as all State Governments have fixed minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act for workers in agriculture as also for workers in other scheduled employments in the unorganised sector. The Central|State Governments have also appointed Inspectors and Claim Authorities to ensure payment of minimum wages to the workers and for the enforcement of various other provisions of the Act.

Devolution of Powers, Functions and Resources to Panchayati Institutions

255. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to promote a genuine devolution of powers, functions and resources to Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable fullest participation of the people in developmental process;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Proposals for revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institution will be placed before the Chief Ministers and, in the light of the deliberations in the Chief Minister's Conference, further action would be taken.

256. [*Transferred to* 8th May, 1990]

Direct Investment on People for Basic Needs

257. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to make direct investment on the people for provision of basic needs like education, nutrition, health, drinking water etc.;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (d) The provision of basic needs to the people is primarily a State responsibility. The Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) is being implemented since the beginning of the Fifth Plan to provide the basic needs like Elementary & Adult Education, Rural Health, Rural Water Supply, Rural Roads, Rural Electrification, Rural Housing, Environmental improvement of Slums, Nutrition etc. Although MNP is a State subject, the Central Government also provide assistance for some of its components like Elementary & Adult Education, Rural Health, Rural Water Supply, Rural Sanitation and Public Distribution System. A Statement showing the resources provided during the Seventh Plan is enclosed in an Annexure. The outlay for the Eighth Plan has not yet been finalised for various components of MNP. (*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 14).

Changing the Railways Signalling System in Bombay

258. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are compelled to change the signalling system in Bombay due to fluctuations in voltage of the electricity supplied by Maharashtra State Electricity Board; and